PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bethlehem Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

Brooklyn Baptist Church,

BROOKLYN, CONECUH COUNTY, ALA.,

October 24th, 25th and 26th, 1885.

OFFICERS:

G. R. FARNHAM	MODERATOR	Evergreen, Ala.
Y. M. RABB	CLERK	Evergreen, Ala.
E. C. MILNER	TREASURER	Georgiana, Ala.

The next session of the Association will be held with the Salem Baptist Church, Monroe Co., Ala., commencing on Saturday before the 1st Sunday in September, 1886, at 10 o'clock A.M.

EVERGREEN, ALA.:
THE STAR JOB PRINTING OFFICE,
1885.

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The sixty-ninth annual session of the Bethlehem Baptist Association was held with the Baptist church at Brooklyn, Ala., on Saturday, the 24th of October, 1885, at 10 o'clock A.M.

The Association was called to order by the moderator, Elder B. J. Skinner, after prayer by R. M. Guy.

G. R. Farnham, J. W. Leslie and E. C. Milner were appointed to enroll the names of the delegates.

While the names of the delegates were being enrolled, the Association engaged in religious exercises conducted by S. W. Jones.

The Committee on Enrollment made the following report:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Philadelphia—W. H. Fountain, J. T. Newberry.
Pleasant Ridge—J. P. Fore, J. A. W. Lowry.
Claiborne—James Thames.
Monroeville—Thos. S. Wiggins, J. W. Leslie.
Poplar Springs—W. A. House, T. H. Dias, David Lewis.
Ramah—A. P. Thames, A. P. Crawford.
Zion—W. A. Fountain, W. A. Locke.
Olive Branch—T. M. Huson, H. G. Brown, J. T. Long.
Salem—G. W. Thompson, L. A. Hendricks, J. O. Snider, R. F. Thompson.
Pleasant Hill—M. Stacy.
Enon—A. D. McNeal.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Pilgrims' Rest—J. E. Deer, E. P. Loveless, E. M. Loveless.
Bethany—B. J. Skinner, L. S. Brantley, D. H. Lee.
Brownsville—D. W. Giddens, Z. T. James.
Bellville—Jas Straughn, W. R. Burk, G. R. Stamps. Wm. Kyser, W. J. Dunklin.
Fairfield—W. S. House, John H. Salter, C. A. Sinkfield.
Arkadelphia—A. H. Stokes, Geo. Lee, A. F. Davis, J. L. Thompson.
Cedar Creek—M. C. Kirkland.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Old Town—I. Spence, John Spence, Frank Deer.
Georgiana—E. C. Milner.
Evergreen—B. H. Crumpton, G. R. Farnham, Y. M. Rabb, J. A. McCreary, W. N. Brawner.
New Prospect—R. W. Black, W. T. Smith, F. Gamble.
Long Branch—J. L. Steely.
Bethesda—J. L. Eddings, J. W. Murphy, W. C. Crumbie.
Antioch—A. J. Standford.
Bethel—J. P. Kendall.
Oak Grove—Jas Brown, Z. Gherkins.

Brushy Creek--C. L. Fails, W. H. Joiner.
Catawba Springs—M. Croskey, J. Lambert.
Point Pleasant—S. L. Lowry, R. S. Smith.
Damascus—W. T. Reynolds, Wm. Davis.
Mt. Carmel—M. E. D. Robinson, J. B. Howell, A. D. Cook.
Johnsonville—Jas A. Stubbs.
New Hope—M. A. Lane, S. J. Countryman.
Brooklyn—I. A. White, C. A. Thames, M. H. Sanders, G. Bethea, L. J. Rabun.

The moderator appointed B. F. Riley, S. W. Jones and R. M. Guy as tellers for the election of officers for the ensuing year, who reported G. R. Farnham, Moderator; Y. M. Rabb, Clerk, and E. C. Milner, Treasurer.

Before the ballot was taken B. J. Skinner, the moderator for the two last sessions, asked the body to excuse him from the duties of that office.

After a few appropriate remarks, G. R. Farnham took the moderator's seat and announced the Committee on Preaching, to-wit: I. A. White, J. W. Leslie, E. C. Milner, C. A. Thames, M. H. Sanders and J. P. Kendall.

Invitation to corresponding bodies was given, with the following response;

Elim Association—J. L. Bryers, R. M. Guy, S. W. Jones.
Zion Association—J. M. Robinson.
Home Mission Board—B. F. Riley.

The Committee on Sunday Schools made their report, which was received, and, on motion, laid on the table until 2 o'clock P.M., to-wit:

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

To the Bethlehem Association:

Your Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

We note with pleasure that there has been marked progress in Sunday School work within the bounds of this Association since its last meeting. This is especially true of the counties of Conecuh, Escambia and Monroe, in which our brethren fully adopted and acted upon the suggestions embodied in our report at the last Association, in reference to conventional work.

Each of said counties has held enthusiastic County Conventions this year, and a District Convention at Monroeville, in Monroe county, composed of the three counties, in which our denominational schools united with the schools of other evangelical denominations in the discussions of this important work and the gathering of Sunday School statistics. It is with grateful pride that we note an increase of attendance and improvement in methods of working as well as other beneficial results growing out of this system, in which our denominational schools keep abreast with the times, as will be more fully shown by the report of our Statistical Secretary. We renew the recommendations embodied in our report to the last Association, and feel assured that their continued observance will greatly promote the interest in Sunday School work within our bounds.

Respectfully submitted,

G. R. FARNHAM, Chairman,
J. W. LESLIE.
J. I. HURRY,
J. B. PLATT,
JAS. STRAUGHN,
Z. T. JAMES,
R. I. DRAUGHON,
Sunday School Committee.

On motion, a committee of three was appointed on Woman's Work. The moderator appointed I. A. White, W. N. Brawner and W. H. Fountain on that committee.

The Executive Committee made their report, which was referred to the Committee on Missions.

On motion, the Association took a recess until 1:30 o'clock P.M.

EVENING SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by S. W. Jones.

The moderator announced the committees to report during the present session, to-wit:

Finance—J. A. McCreary, J. T. Newberry and Jas Straughn.
State of Religion—J. E. Deer, Z. T. James and W. H. Fountain.
Queries and Requests—B. J. Skinner, E. P. Loveless and Frank Deer.
Ministerial Education—T. S. Wiggins, J. L. Eddings and G. W. Lee.

The Sunday School report was taken up, and after discussion was passed.

The Committee on Missions made their report, and also offered a series of resolutions in regard to the report of the Executive Committee. After some discussion the resolutions were divided from the report and the report adopted as follows:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

The reports from the different spheres of operations of our several great interests in the south are, in the main, encouraging. These interests are divided into three great branches, known as the State, Home and Foreign Mission Boards. In the tenth annual report of State Missions, read before the last State Convention, we learn that during the past year there have been in the employment of the Board 81 missionaries and evangelists, who have labored in many of the destitute sections of the state. During the last conventional year there were raised for that Board about $10,000. This year it asks for $12,000 with which to prosecute its work in the state. Of this amount the Bethlehem Association is asked to raise the sum of $234.72.

The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has for its scope of territory the evangelistic needs of the states comprising the Southern Baptist Convention, together with the Indians of the Far West. The steady increase of population, the rapid growth of centers of interest and the multiplication of railway lines, call for an increase of the funds with which to meet the demands made upon this great Board. Its work is increasing with the rapid growth of the south, and it is specially charged with the work of meeting the evangelistic needs of our southern section. Last year there were received by the Board $71,431.68. This year $100,000 are asked for from the south, of which Alabama is asked to give $4,000, and the Bethlehem Association $78.24.

The Foreign Mission Board, as its name indicates, is charged specially with the work in foreign fields. The fields occupied by our missionaries embrace China, Africa, Italy, Brazil and Mexico. In all these the work is most encouraging and the outlook is bright with promise. But what are the few missionaries amid the teeming millions of heathen in the midst of which they labor? Others are waiting to be sent, but cannot until the churches of the south enable them to go with their contributions. This Board, too, asks for $100,000 for next year, of which Alabama is asked to give $5,000 and the Bethlehem Association $97.80. If we would advance these great interests we must come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. LOCKE,

The Committee on Preaching made their report, to-wit:

At the church, 11 o'clock, B. J. Skinner.
At the academy, 11 o'clock, B. F. Riley.
At the church, 3 o'clock, B. H. Crumpton.
At the academy, 3 o'clock, S. W. Jones.

The Association then adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 25.

The members of the Association met at 9;30 o'clock A.M. at the church, and the Sunday School interest was discussed by G. R. Farnham, B. H. Crumpton and others.

The brethren preached at their respective places of appointment to large and attentive audiences.

The usual associational collection was taken up at the close of the 11 o'clock service, amounting to $35.30.

MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 26.

The Association met at 9 o'clock. Religious exercises by J. E. Eddings.

The following committees to report at our next session were announced by the moderator:

Ministerial Education—B. H. Crumpton, W. A. Locke, Jas Straughn, G. W. Thompson, H. G. Brown, T. S. Wiggins, D. S. Lee.

Temperance—I. Spence, J. H. Fore, M. H. Sanders, D. W. Giddens, A. D. McNeal, C. A. Sinkfield, M. C. Kirkland.

Missions—B. J. Skinner, E. C. Milner, J. L. Eddings, M. E. Robinson, W. J. Dunklin, W. H. Fountain, E. M. Loveless.

Sunday Schools—J. W. Leslie, W. N. Brawner, J. T. Newberry, J. P. Kendall, G. R. Stamps, Z. T. James, J. L. Steely.

Woman's Work—I. A. White, W. N. Brawner, W. H. Fountain.

The report of the Executive Committee and resolution of the committee was taken from the table, and after being ably and thoroughly discussed by B. H. Crumpton, B. F. Riley, B. J. Skinner and others, the resolution was laid on the table, and the Executive Committee was instructed to consider the immediate necessities of the local field, and communicate with the State Board, so there may be no friction. The report of the Executive Committee was then adopted, to-wit:

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

To the Bethlehem Association:

By reference to the minutes of our last Association, you will observe that the undersigned were appointed an Executive Committee on "Mission Work," with power to pursue the most practical and effective course which our wisdom and piety might dictate. With no funds at our command and no systematic method by which to raise and collect the same, we were unable to undertake anything like practical evangelical work by employing an evangelist for the entire field. We re-

cognized the fact that there had been considerable dissatisfaction with the manner in which evangelistic work had been done and the funds collected for this purpose expended within the bounds of this Association. Without stopping to discuss the faults of former methods or the inefficiency of the work attempted, we thought best to submit the plan suggested in a printed circular hereto appended, which we sent out to all the churches and such pastors as we could reach, requesting them to act upon the same at once and report their action either to us or to this Association, so that we might know how to act in the future.

The plan submitted is, in our judgment, the most practical way in which to accomplish the work before us, and if properly carried out would furnish ample means for all our missionary and other benevolent enterprises. We have up to this time received responses from — churches indicating their adoption of the plan; from — churches indicating a modification of the plan, and from — churches we have had no response whatever.

We beg further to report that unless some such plan as the one indicated is adopted and carried out, we cannot satisfactorily do the work which lies before us and for which God will hold us responsible. We earnestly pray and sincerely trust that we may be guided by the Holy Spirit in the adoption of this or some better plan looking to more efficient missionary work within the bounds of this Association, and more liberal contributions to the support of all the missionary work fostered by our denomination.

G. R. FARNHAM, Chairman,
Y. M. RABB, Secretary,
W. H. HERRINGTON, Treasurer,
W. T. NETTLES,
E. P. LOVELESS,
J. W. LESLIE,
J. T. FINCHER,
Executive Committee.

The Committee on Denominational Literature reported, and report adopted:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE.

We, the Committee, beg leave to recommend that the Alabama Baptist, Foreign Mission Journal, published at Richmond, Va., Kind Words and literature of the American Baptist Publication Society, published at Philadelphia, Pa., be used.

W. J. DUNKLIN, Chairman.

The Committee on Denominational Education made their report, which was adopted:

REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION.

Denominational education is that which is conducted by a denomination of Christians. It is not necessarily instruction in denominational doctrines. This is legitimate at the proper time and place, but not a part of the literary instruction.

The necessity for denominational education, where and when practicable, arises first, from the silent but certain denominational influence upon the students, giving to them, almost unconsciously to themselves, religious complexion; second ly, from the great advantages of having some organized and enthusiastic body of men committed to it, who will provide the necessary and suitable buildings and incumbents, and drum up the necessary patronage; third, it affords another field for the development of Christian benevolence, and another grand centre of denominational unity. But be all these advantages as they may, they are lost in the absence of endowment.

The Judson Female institute, located at Marion, Ala., under the superintendence of Prof. Robert Frazer, is a college of long standing, unsurpassed success, and almost national prestige, and belongs to the Baptists of our state. Its buildings have had to be enlarged, of late, to accommodate the pressing crowds of young ladies who have matriculated from this and other states. Such is the reputation of this school, that all denominations of Christians as well as Israelites, are to be found there.

The Central Female College, located at Tuscaloosa, under the joint principal-

ship of Prof. G. W. Thomas of Montgomery formerly, and S. B. Foster of Tuscaloosa, is also a Baptist college with one of the most magnificent buildings in the state. These men have just taken hold of this institution, and this, with it, is a transition period. It is not just now so well patronized as the former, but its location, the character and quality of the buildings, and scholarship and reputation of its co-presidents, warrant the assurance of future prosperity.

Howard College, located at Marion, is a Baptist male college of 43 years standing. It was born in an age of prosperity—just before the war—but it was cradled in adversity, having been twice burned down, and then at the end of the war lost its endowment, and now clad in poverty in its maturity, having been compelled to run upon the tuition alone. Yet it has stood like the century oak, defying the storms, and is now reaching out its hands for endowment again, which it needs and must have. It has no theological department proper, but there is a state educational board which raises funds for the education of young ministers at this college. This board has met with great success and deserves our support.

Your Committee would offer the following resolutions:

1. That it is the sentiment of this Association that Howard College should be endowed as speedily as possible.

2. That a fair pro rata of all the funds sent up to this Association shall be directed to ministerial education, the disbursement of which shall be left to the Executive Committee of the Association, and reported to the Board of Education of Alabama.

Respectfully submitted,

B. H. CRUMPTON, Chairman.

The Committee on Woman's Work made their report, which was adopted, to-wit:

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

Your committee appointed to report on Woman's Work, are embarrassed for want of sufficient information in regard to this, one of the most important interests developing in our denominational history. This department of Christian labor, though in its infancy with respect to the methods by which the work is at present being successfully prosecuted, is destined to become the augmenting factor in our plans, and the perfecting power in systematic benevolence.

The time has fully come for us to draw out and combine these latent forces which we have ignorantly overlooked or selfishly ignored; therefore,

Resolved, 1st. That a woman's committee be appointed by the Association to labor in this important work.

2nd. That a central committee, composed of five ladies, be located at Evergreen, with Mrs. G. R. Farnham, President; Mrs. J. A. McCreary, Vice-President; Mrs. W. E. Liverman, Secretary and Treasurer.

3rd. That it shall be the duty and the right of the central committee, acting as the executive of the committee at large, to communicate with the Baptist sisterhood throughout this Association, and heartily co-operate with the Ladies' State Central Committee located at Montgomery.

4th. That all the interests and objects represented by the Foreign, Home and State Boards, be included in its beneficence.

Respectfully submitted,

I. A. WHITE,
W. N. BRAWNER,
W. H. FOUNTAIN.

The report of the Committee on Queries and Requests, after amendment, was adopted as follows:

Your committee find two requests for the meeting of the next Association to be held with them, to-wit: Philadelphia and Salem. Each request also that you change your time of meeting. Therefore your committee recommend that the time of the meeting of this body be changed to meet on Saturday before the first Sunday in September, and that this body meet with the Salem church, Monroe county, Alabama, at 10 o'clock A.M. on that day.

B. J. SKINNER, Chairman.

On motion, a committee of three was appointed to nominate some brother to preach the next annual sermon, and to nominate suitable members for the Executive Committee. J. L. Eddings, Thos. S. Wiggins and W. N. Brawner were [appointed] as the committee.

The following delegates were appointed to meet with other bodies, to-wit:

State Convention—I. A. White, I. Spence, B. J. Skinner, W. A. Locke, B. H. Crumpton and G. R. Farnham.

Pine Barren Association—Y. M. Rabb, W. A. Locke, B. J. Skinner, T. S. Wiggins, E. P. Loveless, J. W. Leslie, J. T. Newberry, J. L. Eddings and A. D. McNeal.

Elim Association—E. P. Loveless, I. A. White, I. Spence, J. E. Deer, J. P. Kendall and M. H. Sanders.

Zion Association—J. P. Kendall and M. E. D. Robinson.

The Special Committee on Nominations made the following report, which was received and the recommendations adopted:

That B. H. Crumpton preach the next annual sermon, and that the Executive Committee of last year be re-appointed, to-wit: G. R. Farnham, Y. M. Rabb, W. H. Herrington, W. T. Nettles, J. T. Fincher, J. W. Leslie and E. P. Loveless.

J. L. EDDINGS,
T. S. WIGGINS,
W. N. BRAWNER.

B. H. Crumpton offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be instructed to pay J. E. Deer fifty dollars for services rendered as evangelist in our association the present year, and authorize the treasurer to pay over the amount in hand to said committee.

B. J. Skinner offered the following resolution, which was adopted;

Resolved, That hereafter the Committees on State of Religion and Queries and Requests be combined, and known as the Committee on State of Religion and Digest of the Letters.

The Committee on Ministerial Education made their report, which passed after amendment as follows:

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your committee have to report with regret, that so far as they have been able to ascertain, very little has been done in our Association in this enterprise in proportion to its demands and importance. In some portions of the state a more lively interest has been taken in the matter than with us, and we would urge upon our churches more earnest and substantial action in this behalf.

It is submitted that the endowment of Howard College, to such extent as will enable it to educate young men for the ministry free of cost when so desired, is the most substantial and permanent measure that can be adopted for this purpose, and we recommend that this Association pledge its co-operation with any feasible plan that may be inaugurated by the denomination of the state, to accomplish this much desired end.

THOS. S. WIGGINS,
J. L. EDDINGS,
G. W. LEE,
Committee.

Resolved, That this Association note with pleasure the adoption of Rev. R. M. Guy, by the Elim Association, as beneficiary for ministerial education, and that our Executive Committee be instructed to furnish to Bro. Guy such amount of the funds directed to this purpose, as the merits of the case may suggest.

Bro. Locke offered the following:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to ascertain the reason why several of the churches composing this body have failed so repeatedly to send delegates to this Association, and report at the next session.

Bros. W. A. Locke, J. E. Deer and J. W. Leslie were appointed as said committee.

B. J. Skinner offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That it be made a standing resolution of this Association to instruct the clerk to forward copies of the minutes to the secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention as soon as printed.

The Committee on State of Religion made their report, which was adopted:

Your Committee on State of Religion beg leave to report: That there are 34 churches represented, and from the best information that we can get, they report an increase of 140 members. Respectfully submitted,

J. E. DEER, Chairman.

The Committee on Temperance made the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

No question is more prominent before the American people to-day than that of temperance. During the last few years it has assumed such proportions as to command elements which have heretofore been opposed to this great revolution. To say nothing now of the work in other states of the union, the spirit of temperance is on the increase in our own state. With the advancements which have been made in different sections of Alabama, and with the growth of interest in the work of temperance, we are encouraged to believe that the day is not far distant when prohibition shall prevail throughout the state. Experience has taught us that when the good and respectable people of any section appeal to our General Assembly for the enactment of prohibitory laws, they are usually passed. This encourages us to press the matter in our several communities, and to act in concert with any general movements that may exist for the suppression of this great vice. We most earnestly recommend to the churches of this Association the importance of exercising prompt discipline with respect to members who are in disorder through strong drink. It becomes us to set the example in this great reformatory movement. Respectfully submitted, I. SPENCE, Chairman.

On motion, the treasurer was instructed to pay over the minute money to the clerk, and he be allowed $15 for his services and the balance be expended in printing and distributing the minutes; the Foreign Mission fund be sent to H. A. Tupper, Richmond, Va.; the Home Mission fund be turned over to B. F. Riley, and the Alexander Travis Colportage funds paid to T. M. Baily.

B. J. Skinner offered the following resolution, which was passed unanimously by a rising vote:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are hereby tendered to the people of the community of Brooklyn for the hearty welcome and unbounded hospitality extended to this body.

The Committee on Finance made their report, which was adopted:

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The report of the Finance Committee was presented and adopted as follows:

CHURCHES.	State Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Home Missions.	Indigent Ministers.	Ministerial Education.	Minutes.	Total.
Claiborne	14 40	.....	2 00	.....	.....	1 65	18 05
Enon	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	85	5 85
Salem	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 00	3 00
Pleasant Hill	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	1 00
Poplar Springs	70	.....	60	.....	.....	50	1 80
Philadelphia	2 50	10 00	2 50	.....	5 00	2 00	22 00
Monroeville	10 00	6 50	3 50	.....	5 00	2 00	27 00
Zion	6 00	85	6 00	.....	.....	2 50	15 35
Ramah	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	1 00
Pleasant Ridge	3 20	16	1 30	35	19	1 80	7 00
Arkadelphia	1 85	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 75	4 60
Bellville	10 80	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 50	13 30
Catawba Springs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	90	90
Pilgrim's Rest	12 00	2 10	2 10	6 00	2 50	2 00	26 70
Bethany	6 00	5 00	4 00	.....	4 35	2 00	21 35
Olive Branch	3 00	1 50	2 00	.....	.....	1 50	8 00
Fairfield	4 30	3 50	.....	.....	.....	60	8 40
Mars Hill	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	1 00
Brownsville	.....	2 10	.....	.....	.....	60	2 70
Cedar Creek	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	50
Antioch	2 90	75	.....	.....	.....	1 50	5 15
Brooklyn	3 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 00	6 50
New Hope	2 85	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 65	4 50
Brushy Creek	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	1 00
Long Branch	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 10	1 10
Georgiana	15 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	16 00
Old Town	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 40	1 46
New Prospect	5 00	1 25	.....	.....	.....	1 65	7 90
Bethesda	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 10	1 10
Evergreen	34 50	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	35 50
Bethel	50	1 00	1 00	.....	.....	1 75	4 25
Johnstonville	25	25	25	.....	.....	35	1 10
Oak Grove	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50	1 50
Point Pleasant	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00
Mt. Carmel	1 00	.....	50	.....	.....	50	2 00
Paid treasurer over money not included in the above report..	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00	3 00
Surplus..... $4.45							
Sabbath collections to be divided between the three missions	11 76	11 76	11 78	.....	.....	.....	35 30
Total	158 01	46 72	37 53	6 35	17 04	51 15	316 80

J. A. McCREARY, Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

DR.

Alexander Travis Colportage Funds	$ 4 95	
Cash from Finance Committee	241 70	
Voucher from " "	79 50	—$326 15

CR.

Paid Home Missions to B. F. Riley	$ 37 50	
Paid State Missions to J. E. Deer	50 00	
Paid State Missions to Executive Committee	56 30	
Paid Minute money to Clerk	51 15	
To be sent Dr. Tupper, Foreign Missions	46 72	
To be sent T. M. Baily, Colportage	4 95	
By vouchers from Finance Committee	79 50	—$326 15

E. C. MILNER, Treasurer.

After a harmonious and profitable session, the Association adjourned to meet with the Salem Baptist Church, Monroe County, Ala., on the Saturday before the first Sunday in September, 1886, at 10 o'clock A.M.

G. R. FARNHAM, Moderator.
Y. M. RABB, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who, on producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats.

ART. II. The members thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of the "Bethlehem Baptist Association," who shall usurp no authority over the churches, in our union, or infringe on any of their internal rights, but shall be merely an advisory council in all matters relative to their internal concerns. It, nevertheless, claims authority over its own members, the delegates of the churches, and in justice and propriety must have power to withdraw from, and disown all churches that depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. Its principal business shall be to cultivate union and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, and the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, especially with those united in this Association.

ART. III. Every church in our union shall be entitled to three delegates, and for every twenty-five (or fractional part) over fifty members an additional delegate, Through them shall be transmitted to every annual session of this Association a letter, specifying the names of their messengers, number in fellowship, excommunicated, restored, deceased, licensed or ordained to preach the Gospel since last session; also postoffice; Sabbath of meetings; by whom supplied; amount paid pastor, and the amount contributed for the different benevolent objects fostered by this body, and the number, average and attendance at Sabbath Schools.

ART. IV. New churches may be admitted into our union by messengers bringing petitionary letters. If upon due examination they be found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator shall manifest their admission by giving the messenger the right hand of fellowship.

ART. V. At every session of the Association a Moderator shall be elected by, and of the members present, whose duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects

legally introduced. A clerk shall be elected, whose duty it shall be to keep a correct record of all the proceedings and discharge such other duties as may pertain his office.

Also a Treasurer shall be elected whose duty it shall be to receive all money belonging to the Association and disburse it as directed by the body, and present annually for insertion in the Minutes a clear and full statement of all receipts and expeditures.

ART. VI. The Association shall furnish the churches with the Minutes of every session in proportion to the Minute Fund sent up by each individual church.

ART. VII. Every query sent by a church must be enclosed in her letter certifying that they have endeavored to solve the same but failed. Nor will it take action on any difficulties between churches unless they have pursued the directions contained in the 18th chapter of Mathew for settlement of personal difficulties, and have not been able to settle them. In such cases the Association shall take it under consideration, but the voice of the body shall be considered an advisory answer.

ART. VIII. The Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of churches, and all money thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their delegates and paid over to the Committee on Finance. The committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund and pay it over to the Treasurer.

ART. IX. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed Minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. X. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper Rules of Decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

ART. XI. This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of the Association by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. At every annual meeting of the Association, immediately after the delegates' names are enrolled, tellers shall be appointed by the Chair, and the Association shall proceed to chose from among their number a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall hold their office until new ones are chosen.

3. The Moderator shall take the chair every day at the hour to which the Association shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum shall cause the Minutes of the preceding day to be read.

4. He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak to points of order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association by any two members, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once, unless by leave of the Association.

5. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.

6. Questions shall be distinctly put. Those voting in the affirmative shall say aye, and those of contrary opinion no. If the Moderator doubts or division be called for, the delegates shall divide; those in the affirmative of the question shall first rise from their seats, and afterwards those in the negative.

7. The Moderator shall appoint all committees unless otherwise especially directed by the Association.

8. In all cases of an election the Moderator may vote; on other cases he shall not vote unless the body be equally divided; in that event he shall give the casting vote. He may speak to any question, provided he calls another member to occupy the chair while he is speaking.

9. When any member is about to speak he shall rise from his seat and shall respectfully address the Moderator, and shall confine himself to the question under debate.

10. If any member in speaking or otherwise transgress the rules of the Association, the Moderator shall, or any member may call him to order, in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down, unless permitted to explain and the Association shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, but without debate. If there is no appeal the decision of the chair shall be submitted to; if the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise, he shall not proceed without leave of the Association.

11. When two or more members rise at once, the Moderation shall name the member who is first to speak.

12. No member shall speak more than once to the same question without leave of the Association, unless he be the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending in the case when he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every member choosing to speak has spoken.

13. Every member who shall be in the house when a question is put shall give his vote, unless the Association for special reason, excuse him.

14. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the chair, or being in writing, it shall be handed to the Moderator and read aloud before debate.

15. Every motion must be reduced to writing if the chair or any member desire it.

16. After a motion is stated by the chair, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the body, but may be withdrawn by leave of the Association at any time before a decision or amendment.

17. When a question is under debate no motion shall be entertained, but to adjourn, to lie on the table, for the previous question, to postpone to a certain day, to commit, to amend, to postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged, and on motion to postpone to a certain day, to commit or postpone indefinitely being decided, shall again be allowed.

18. Motion to adjourn shall always be in order except the Association be engaged in voting.

19. Motion to lay on the table shall be taken without debate, and shall always be in order except a member be speaking or the body engaged in voting.

20. On previous questions there shall be no debate; all incidental questions of order arising after a motion is made for the previous question, and pending such motion, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise without debate.

21. The previous question shall be put in this form: "Shall the main question now be put?" It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present; its effect shall be to put an end to all debate and bring the Association to a direct vote upon amendments reported by committee, if any, upon pending amendments, and then upon the main question.

22. A motion for reconsideration may be made by any member voting with the majority on the same or succeeding business day, and such motion shall take precedence of all other questions except a motion to adjourn.

23. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave from the Moderator, nor leave the meeting without leave of the Association.

24. Should any member of the Association absent himself before the close of the session without permission from the body, he shall be marked in the minutes as absent without leave.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Appoint Committee to Read Letters.
2. Names of Delegates enrolled.
3. Election of Officers.
4. Appoint Committee on Preaching.
5. Recognize Messengers from Corresponding Bodies.
6. Invitation to Ministers of the Gospel present, not accredited to the body, to seats with us.
7. Appointment of Committees to report during the session.
8. Report of Committees appointed at the last session.
9. Appointment of Committee to report at the next session.
10. Report of Committee of the present session.
11. Motions and Resolutions.
12. Miscellaneous business.
13. Appoint time and place of next meeting.
14. Treasurers Report.
15. Disbursements of funds on hand.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

J. E. Bell	Georgiana, Ala.
B. H. Crumpton	Evergreen, Ala.
E. Clines	Bellville, Ala.
J. E. Deer	Brewton, Ala.,
J. L. Eddings	Perdue Hill, Ala.,
John H. Higdon	Evergreen, Ala.
Jehu Holly	Georgiana, Ala.
—— Joiner	Sepulga, Ala.
W. A. Locke	Perdue Hill, Ala.
J. L. Lowrey	Brewton, Ala.
A. J. Lambert	Perdue Hill, Ala.
G. E. Mize	Georgiana, Ala.
John McWilliams	Monroeville, Ala.
B. J. Skinner	Burnt Corn, Ala.
I. Spence	Evergreen, Ala.
Jacob Smith	Brewton, Ala.
J. L. Taylor	Georgiana, Ala.
J. M. Travis	Evergreen, Ala.
I. A. White	Brooklyn, Ala.
J. B. F. Watts	Evergreen, Ala.
J. M. Wood,	Brooklyn, Ala.

NOTE.—If there should be any omissions in the above list, it is for want of information. CLERK.

TABULAR STATEMENT.

CHURCH.	POST OFFICE.	CLERK.	PASTOR.	SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINT'NDENT.	Restored.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Excluded.	Dismissed.	Deceased.	No. Members.	Average S. S. Attendance.	Sabbath of Meeting.	Pastors' Salary.
Claiborne	Perdue Hill	J. M. Thompson	F. H. McGill	J. M. Thompson	.....	8	1	2	1	.....	67	20	3	100 00
Enon	Hollinger	Jas. Gillespie	A. J. Lambert	None	.....	3	1	2	.....	1	18	.....	.....	49 50
Monroeville	Monroeville	J. Deloach	B. J. Skinner	J. W. Leslie	.....	.....	5	.....	2	1	64	30	2	150 00
Philadelphia	Burnt Corn	J. D. Nettles	B. J. Skinner	W. T. Nettles	.....	1	.....	.....	3	.....	107	30	.....	150 00
Pleasant Hill	Perdue Hill	J. H. Moore	W. A. Locke	None	.....	4	4	.....	1	.....	50	.....	.....	50 00
Pleasant Ridge	Monroeville	J. L. Smith	W. A. Locke	John R. Chandler.	.....	3	.....	.....	9	.....	65	15	3	.....
Poplar Springs	Perdue Hill	W. A. House	A. J. Lambert	None	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	28	.....	3	30 00
Salem	Perdue Hill	J. W. Thompson	W. A. Locke	None	2	4	2	2	4	.....	106	.....	4	.....
Zion	Monroeville	C. C. McWilliams	W. A. Locke	None	.....	1	4	.....	7	4	109	.....	1	.....
Arkadelphia	Bellville	A. H. Stokes	None	None	1	3	.....	1	8	.....	99	.....	3	.....
Bellville	Bellville	Jas Straughn.	B. H. Crumpton	J. B. Stamps	2	11	5	1	1	1	117	36	1	250 00
Bethany	Burnt Corn	John P. Wadkins	B. J. Skinner	B. Shirley	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	52	25	4	150 00
Brownsville	Gravella	Z. T. James	J. E. Deer	Z. T. James	.....	5	1	.....	3	1	44	30	3	65 00
Olive Branch	Gravella	J. M. Yates	Jehu Holly	R. B. Platt	1	.....	10	3	.....	.....	60	.....	2	60 00
Pensacola	Pensacola	T. J. Davis	T. L. Talbert	W. S. Brown	2	5	17	2	7	1	75	75	1-2-3-4	800 00
Pilgrim's Rest	Brewton	A. F. Johnson	J. E. Bell	M. A. Rabb	.....	7	.....	.....	8	.....	84	81	1	150 00
Fairfield	Betts	F. J. Deen	J. E. Deer	None	1	7	2	4	1	.....	77	.....	2	75 00
Ramah	Burnt Corn	T. H. Barnes	J. L. Eddings	S. S. Talbert	1	4	3	.....	.....	4	102	33	4	50 00
Evergreen	Evergreen	W. H. Herrington	B. H. Crumpton	G. R. Farnham	.....	4	1	.....	3	1	130	92	2-4	700 00
Georgiana	Georgiana	J. M. Sims	T. C. Plaster	Jas M. Sims	.....	1	.....	.....	8	1	98	80	2-4	300 00
Old Town	Herbert	Frank Deer	I. A. White	A. Davis	.....	11	.....	.....	.....	4	86	.....	4	.....
New Prospect	Georgiana	H. F. Gamble	J. Holly	J. H. Lee	1	29	4	.....	.....	1	90	20	2	.....
Long Branch	Cohassett	E. P. Matthews	P. L. Moseley	J. L. Steely	.....	5	2	.....	.....	1	51	25	2	87 50
Bethesda	Nero	M. C. Crumbie	J. L. Eddings	None	1	.....	1	1	.....	.....	44	.....	1	.....
New Hope	Sepulga	M. A. Lane	Jehu Holly	W. R. Higdon	.....	.....	1	.....	4	.....	99	15	1	.....
Antioch	Bolling	E. H. Hudson	S. Moore	J. W. Long	1	5	.....	3	5	.....	72	80	1	.....
Mars Hill	Williams Station	J. E. Boon	A. J. Lambert	T. W. Franklin	1	.....	2	.....	1	1	53	.....	4	30 00
Brooklyn	Brooklyn	L. J. Rabun	I. A. White	M. H. Sanders	7	44	.....	.....	1	1	100	.....	3	.....
Bethel	Shells	G. A. Riley	G. E. Mize	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	47	.....	1	.....
Oak Grove	Monroeville	M. Stacey	J. L. Eddings	J. Hanks	.....	6	3	1	.....	1	65	20	.....	30 00
Cedar Creek	Castleberry	G. W. Kirkland	S. Lowery	None	2	12	2	.....	9	2	44	.....	2	.....
Johnsonville	Brooklyn	C. C. Brawner	I. Spence	J. M. Wood	2	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	17	20	.....	50 00
Mount Carmel	Garland	J. H. Howell	R. M. Burt	M. E. B. Roberson	.....	4	1	4	.....	2	56	30	1	.....
Point Pleasant	Brewton	David Smith	J. L. Lowry	None	1	4	.....	.....	.....	3	60	.....	3	.....
Damascus	Brooklyn	L. W. Manning	I. A. White	John Danford	.....	23	9	1	1	.....	42	.....	2	.....
Brushy Creek	Georgiana	Geo. Carnathan	W. H. Joyner	None	3	1	10	.....	2	2	41	.....	1	.....
Catawba Springs	Pollard	J. J. Jackson	J. E. Deer	None	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	37	.....	.....	.....
Totals					29	216	86	31	94	34	2556			

CHURCHES NOT REPRESENTED.

MADE UP FROM LAST REPORT.

CHURCH.	POST OFFICE.	CLERK.	Members.
Little River	Mount Pleasant		
Montgomery Hill	Tensaw	S. W. Boyles	52
Beulah	Jayvilla		12
Sepulga	Herbert	J. P. Purnell	34
Union	Sepulga	M. A. Ray	79
Hamilton Hill	Claiborne	C. M. Emmons	15
Midway	Ruby	John Hardin	82
Pensacola	By Letter		
Total			274

CIRCULAR LETTER

TO THE BAPTIST CHURCHES COMPOSING THE BETHLEHEM ASSOCIATION.

DEAR BRETHREN: The undersigned Executive Committee, appointed by our Association in 1884, and continued for the next Associational year by its action at the recent meeting held at Brooklyn, upon whom was imposed the duty of collecting and disbursing all funds for missionary and other purposes contributed by the different churches, beg leave to submit for your consideration and immediate action the following plan, which we trust will meet with your hearty approval and favorable endorsement:

1st. Will you agree to pay ten cents per month for each and every member of your church, to be appropriated for missionary work within the bounds of our association, also for Home and Foreign missions and such other benevolent purposes as are fostered by our denomination; said money to be paid at the end of each and every month to the Treasurer of your church and by him forwarded to the Treasurer of this committee.

2nd. If you will not agree to pay that amount will you please indicate by your action at your first regular conference after the receipt of this circular, what amount you are willing so to contribute for the purposes indicated?

3rd. Will the Deacons of your church make a careful canvass of the entire membership and see precisely what each one is willing to contribute upon the foregoing plan and for the purposes indicated in the event you cannot have a church conference, and report the same as hereafter directed.

4th. It may be that some will give more than the amount named and some less. In that event please report how many members are willing to give ten cents per month and how many will give any smaller amount, even if it be only one cent per month, so that the Committee can tell how to make its estimates for the next year's work.

5th. Will you please make out a report of your action upon the blanks which we will forward for that purpose to your clerk, and in the event you will not agree to do anything, please state that fact so that we can tell what to do.

Lastly. We beg you to give this matter your prayerful consideration and remember that we are your servents and can do nothing without your assistance and co-operation.

If the plan prove successful we propose to put into the field at once one or more evangelists who are competent and consecrated to the Master's service and so direct their labors as to meet the most urgent needs within our bounds. If your church has heretofore acted upon circulars sent out before the meeting of the association, please report the same to G. R. Farnham, of Evergreen, the chairmain of this committee, to whom all reports should be promptly sent.

Yours fraternally,

G. R. FARNHAN, CHAIRMAN, Evergreen, Ala.,
Y. M. RABB, SECRETARY, " "
W. H. HERRINGTON, TREASURER, " "
W. T. NETTLES, Kempville, Alabama.
E. P. LOVELESS, Brewton, Alabama.
J. W LESLIE, Monroeville, Alabama.
J. T. FINCHER, Evergreen, Alabama.

Executive Committee.